



North Dakota Residents Living Outside the United States,

In North Dakota, voting is made easy through absentee voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register to vote. Please use the following information to make your voice heard through voting.

Al Jaeger
North Dakota Secretary of State
The State's Chief Election Official

☒ **Voter Qualifications**

North Dakota does not have voter registration. However, in order to vote in North Dakota, a voter must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A North Dakota resident; and
- A precinct resident for 30 days preceding the election.

NOTE: A citizen of the United States who is eighteen or older and whose parent is an elector in North Dakota is a qualified voter provided this individual has not registered to vote in any other state or territory of the U.S. These voters use the same North Dakota residential address as their parents and may vote the entire absentee ballot for the residential address.

☒ **Determining Residence**

To determine residence, the conditions from the North Dakota Century Code Section 54-01-26 must be met.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which the voter refers to as "home";
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;
- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.
- The law also states that an individual does not lose a voting residence by temporary assignment away from home.

☒ **Ensuring Your Vote**

Regardless of where in the world a North Dakota resident is living the right to vote is not diminished. Absentee voting is an easy process to follow.

North Dakota was one of the first states to allow overseas and military voters to fax and email absentee ballots. Through action of the 2011 Legislative Assembly, North Dakota was among the first to further expand the absentee voting process by allowing these voters to request the ballot online and digitally mark the ballot before casting it to be counted.

North Dakota provides many voting options to mark and submit voting materials. The voter has the choice to complete the

process on paper through the mail, through digital marking and submission, or a combination of the two.

☒ **The Absentee Voting Process in North Dakota**

Absentee voting for overseas and military voters may be completed by either electronic or paper means; however, voters using the electronic methods will expedite the process. Choices for completing the process will be given to the voter at each step.

Applying for the Absentee Ballot:

Applications for absentee ballots may be submitted anytime within the calendar year of an election. Absentee ballot applications may be filled out and submitted electronically at [Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#). Election officials of the county, city, or school district may also furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors.

Both the electronic and paper application will request the following information from each voter desiring to vote absentee:

- voter's name;
- voter's current or most recent ND residential address;
- voter's mailing address;
- voter's current contact telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- the voter's affirmation of residence in the precinct for at least thirty days immediately prior to the election;
- voter's signature;
- the voter's status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence, or a family member of the uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence;
- voter's birth date and year;
- voter's motor vehicle operator's license or non-driver identification number, if available
- voter's fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter's email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

Absentee ballot applications filled out and submitted using the electronic application will automatically be sent to the voter's county auditor. A voter choosing to submit a paper application must send it to the auditor of the voter's county of residence. Contact information for all 53 North Dakota County Auditors is found at the end of this brochure.

Receiving the Absentee Ballot:

Absentee ballots will be made available to qualified voters 46 days prior to the election. Upon receipt of the application, the county auditor will deliver the ballot and voter's affidavit in either electronic or paper format depending on the wishes the voter expressed on the application.

Marking the Absentee Ballot:

Voters are given the option to mark the ballot using the digital marking option provided by the online tool or the ballot may be printed and marked with a pen. Ballots received through mail or fax delivery are to be marked by pen.

Submitting the Absentee Ballot Packet:

Voters must submit the marked ballot and the completed voter's affidavit in order for the ballot to be accepted. These two items may be returned electronically, by fax, or by mail. Ballots and affidavits must be submitted by the voter no later than the day

before the election. If submitted by mail, the return envelope must have an official date stamp indicating the date of return.

Additionally all marked ballots and affidavits must be received by the county prior to the meeting of the county canvassing board, which will take place on either the Friday or the Monday following an election. Voters submitting absentee ballots close to Election Day must take this fact into account.

Tracking the Absentee Ballot:

After the county auditor records the receipt of an absentee ballot application through the point the voted ballot and affidavit is received from the voter, voters may track the status of the ballot through an online utility found at the following address <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/AbsenteeTracker.aspx>

Receipt of the Marked Absentee Ballot:

Upon receipt of the marked ballot and completed voter's affidavit by the county auditor, the ballot will be either accepted or rejected. If the ballot from a resident living outside the United States is rejected, the county auditor will send the voter the reason the ballot was rejected by the county election boards. Remember, absentee ballots must be received by the county prior to the meeting of the county canvassing board in order to be counted.

Following Election Results:

Results of the election can be followed by visiting the following site: <http://results.sos.nd.gov/>



Resources for Overseas Voters

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Toll Free 800-438-8683
Website www.fvap.gov
E-mail vote@fvap.ncr.gov

The FVAP website contains information on voting procedures in the various states along with absentee voting deadlines and forms for expatriates to complete and return.

North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Unit

Toll Free (800) 352-0867 ext. 8-4146
Website www.nd.gov/sos
E-mail soselect@nd.gov

The Secretary of State is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

The Secretary of State's website contains information for voters, candidates, and the general public. The website includes all election-related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

North Dakota's County Auditors

North Dakota's 53 county auditors are the chief election officials for each county and are responsible for absentee voting administration. Click on the link below for the contact information for the county auditors.

[North Dakota Local Election Officials](#)